



House Republicans drop Jim Jordan as their nominee for speaker, stumbling back to square one

By LISA MASCARO, FAR-NOUSH AMIRI, STEPHEN GROVES and KEVING FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Republicans abruptly dropped Rep. Jim Jordan on Friday as their nominee for House speaker, making the decision during a closed-door session after the hard-edged ally of Donald Trump failed badly on a third ballot for the gavel.

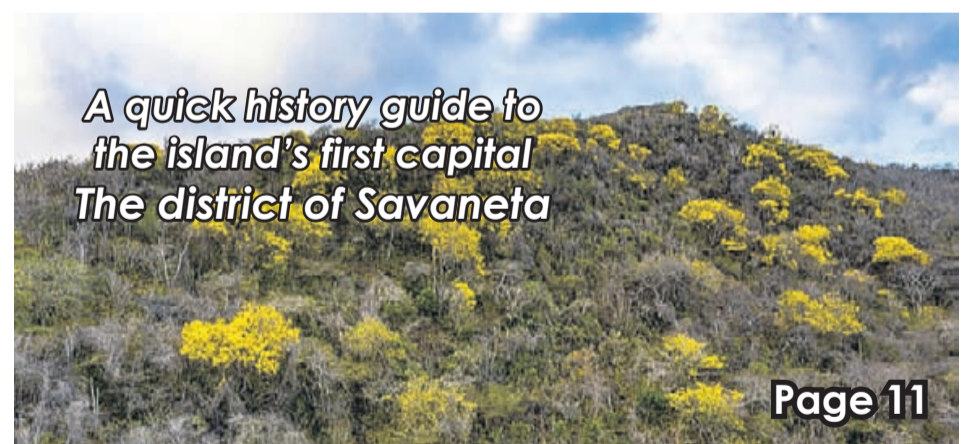
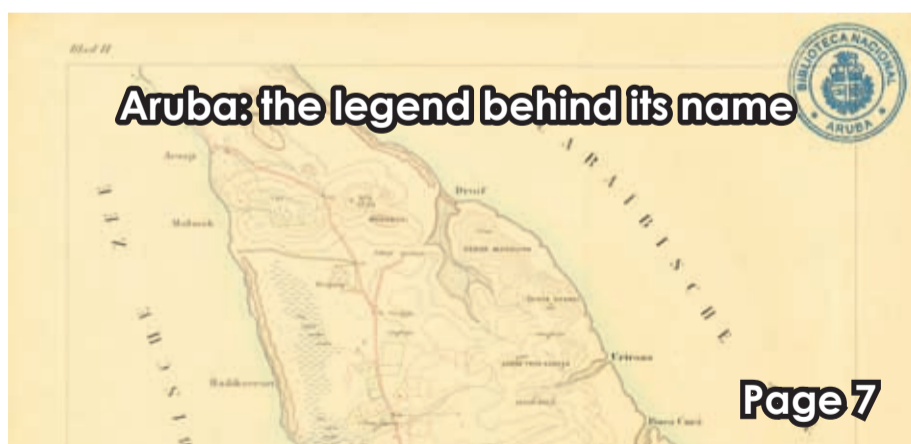
The outcome left Republicans dejected, frustrated and sinking deeper into turmoil, another week without a House speaker bordering on a full-blown crisis. House Republicans have no realistic or working plan to unite the fractured GOP majority, elect a new speaker and return to the work of Congress that has been languishing since hard-liners ousted Kevin McCarthy at the start of the month.



A House clerk keeps track of voting as Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, loses the third ballot in his bid to become speaker of the House, at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, Oct. 20, 2023.

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Biden faces tough battle to secure \$105 billion for Ukraine, Israel, the border and more

By **CHRIS MEGERIAN** and
MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Friday released a sweeping set of proposals to bolster Israel and Ukraine in the midst of two wars as well as invest more in domestic defense manufacturing, humanitarian assistance and managing the influx of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The total cost of the supplemental funding request was pegged at just over \$105 billion. President Joe Biden hopes Congress will move urgently on the legislation, and he made the case for deepening U.S. support for its allies during a rare Oval Office address on Thursday night.

The Democratic president's plan faces some immediate complications on Capitol Hill. The House is at a standstill, unable to pass legislation, as the Republican majority struggles to choose a new speaker, and it could also get bogged down in a divided Senate where some Republicans want to add additional border policies to the measure.

But Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, said he would advance Biden's proposals as soon as possible.

"This legislation is too important to wait for the House to



President Joe Biden speaks from the Oval Office of the White House Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, in Washington, about the war in Israel and Ukraine.

Associated Press

settle their chaos," he said. "Senate Democrats will move expeditiously on this request, and we hope that our Republican colleagues across the aisle will join us to pass this much-needed funding."

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, told reporters on Friday that Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine and Hamas' attack on Israel represent a "global inflection point."

"This budget request is critical to advancing America's national security and ensuring the safety of the American people," Sullivan said.

The biggest line item in the

supplemental funding request is \$61.4 billion to support Ukraine. Some of that money will go to replenishing Pentagon stockpiles of weapons that have already been provided.

Ukraine has struggled to make progress in a grueling counteroffensive, and the White House has warned that Russia could gain ground if the United States does not rush more weapons and ammunition to the conflict.

"The world is closely watching what Congress does next," Sullivan said.

Israel would receive \$14.3 billion in assistance under the proposal. The majority

of that money would help with air and missile defense systems, according to the White House.

Some Republicans in both the House and the Senate are wary of linking funding for Ukraine and Israel.

Rep. Roger Williams, R-Texas, said the president's proposal was discussed in a closed-door meeting of his state's Republican delegation on Friday.

"You can't blend the two together," he said, describing Israel as "our friend forever."

Williams said Biden's proposal is "a little disturbing" because "he knows he can't get it done without

Israel." The reaction is emblematic of how Biden's decision to roll together several different issues, in hopes of broadening the potential political coalition to ensure the legislation's passage, could also lead it to its derailment.

Debates over immigration will likely be the most thorny as Republicans seek to bolster enforcement. Some Republicans have said they won't support the measure unless new policies are added, and it is so far unclear whether the money that Biden is requesting would be sufficient. A group of Republican senators huddled on Thursday to discuss possible proposals that they would support.

Shalanda Young, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, suggested it would be hypocritical for them to oppose Biden's proposal after complaining about lax border management.

"We will not be lectured by those who refuse to act," she said. "As we've said repeatedly, Congress needs to take action to provide sufficient resources for the border."

Although there was a lull in migrant arrivals to the U.S. after the start of new asylum restrictions in May, illegal crossings topped a daily average of more than 8,000 last month. □



The U.S. Supreme Court is seen, Oct. 5, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Friday said it would indefinitely

block a lower court order curbing Biden administration efforts to combat controversial social media posts on topics including

The Supreme Court allows the White House to continue work to combat controversial social media posts

COVID-19 and election security.

The justices said they would hear arguments in a lawsuit filed by Louisiana, Missouri and other parties accusing administration officials of unconstitutionally squelching conservative points of view. The new case adds to a term already heavy with social media issues.

Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas would have reject-

ed the emergency appeal from the Biden administration.

"At this time in the history of our country, what the Court has done, I fear, will be seen by some as giving the Government a green light to use heavy-handed tactics to skew the presentation of views on the medium that increasingly dominates the dissemination of news. That is most unfortunate," Alito wrote in dissent.

White House communications staffers, the surgeon general, the FBI and the U.S. cybersecurity agency are among those who would have been affected by the order. The lawsuit said they were among those who coerced changes in online content on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and other media platforms.

Notably, the companies themselves are not part of the litigation. □

House Republicans drop Jim Jordan as their nominee for speaker, stumbling back to square one

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Afterward the meeting, Jordan said simply of his colleagues, "We put the question to them, they made a different decision."

The hard-charging Judiciary Committee chairman said House Republicans now need to come together and "figure out who our speaker is going to be."

Their majority control floundering, Republicans left the private session blaming one another for the divisions they have created. Next steps were highly uncertain as a wide range of Republican lawmakers started pitching themselves for speaker.

But it appears no one at present can win a GOP majority, leaving the House without a speaker and unable to function for the foreseeable future, an embarrassing blow to a central U.S. seat of government.

"We're in a very bad place right now," McCarthy said. The plan is for new nominees to come forward for a candidate forum and internal party elections next week. Majority Leader Steve Scalise said they would "start over" on Monday.



Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, speaks to the media after House Republicans met behind closed doors, at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, Oct. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

In the meantime, Rep. Mark Alford, a freshman from Missouri, was far from alone in expressing his anger and disappointment.

"I gave up my career to come here to do something for America, to rebuild our military, to get spending under control, to secure our border — and here we are in this quicksand," he said. In a floor vote Friday morning, Jordan's third reach for the gavel, he lost 25 Republican colleagues, worse than he had fared earlier in the week, and far from the majority needed.

A founder of the far-right

House Freedom Caucus, Jordan's run essentially collapsed in large part because more centrist Republicans are revolting over the nominee they view as too extreme and the hardball tactics being used to win their votes. They have been bombarded with harassing phone calls and even reported death threats.

To win over GOP colleagues, Jordan had relied on backing from Trump, the party's front-runner in the 2024 election, and groups pressuring rank-and-file lawmakers for the vote. But they were not enough and in fact back-

fired on some. Friday's vote was 194 for Jordan, his lowest tally yet, and 210 for Jeffries, with two absences on each side.

In fact, the Jordan lost rather than gained votes despite hours spent trying to win over holdouts, no improvement from the 20 and then 22 Republicans he lost in early rounds this week.

McCarthy himself rose in the chamber to nominate Jordan, portraying him as a skilled legislator who reaches for compromise. That drew scoffs of laughter from the Democratic side of the aisle. Democrats nominated Leader Hakeem Jeffries, with Rep. Katherine Clark calling Jordan, who refused to certify the 2020 presidential election results, "a threat to democracy."

For more than two weeks the stalemate has shut down the U.S. House, leaving a major part of the government severely hobbled at a time of challenges at home and abroad. While Democrats have offered to broker a bipartisan deal to re-open the House, the Republican majority appears to have no idea how to end the political turmoil and get back

to work. With Republicans in majority control of the House, 221-212, any candidate can lose only a few detractors. It appears there is no Republican at present who can win a clear majority, 217 votes, to become speaker.

One extraordinary idea, to give the interim speaker pro tempore, Rep. Patrick McHenry, more powers for the next several months to at least bring the House back into session and conduct crucial business, was swiftly rejected by Jordan's own ultra-conservative allies and brushed back by McHenry himself.

A "betrayal," said Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind.

Republicans predict the House could essentially stay closed until the mid-November deadline for Congress to approve funding or risk a federal government shut-down.

"We're trying to figure out if there's a way we can get back with a Republican-only solution," said veteran legislator Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. "That's what normal majorities do. What this majority has done is prove it's not a normal majority." □

U.S. warns of a Russian effort to sow doubt over the election outcomes in democracies around the globe

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI**
Associated Press

The U.S. is warning nearly 100 countries that Russian intelligence is opening a new front in its efforts to destabilize democracies by amplifying doubts about the legitimacy of vote-counting and elections, senior government officials said Friday.

Russia has long advocated overtly and covertly for candidates it backs to win elections in other countries, but intelligence officials say they have recently identified a new tactic sowing doubts about the reliability of democracy itself.

"Russia is pursuing operations to degrade public confidence in the integrity of elections themselves," the

U.S. stated in a cable sent this week to embassies in more than 90 countries to be passed onto those governments. The document was obtained by The Associated Press.

A message left with the Russian embassy in Washington was not immediately returned.

Russia appears encouraged by its success in amplifying the lies by former President Donald Trump and his supporters during and after the 2020 presidential election falsely blaming widespread fraud for his loss. Those lies helped spark the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and continue to resonate to this day, contributing to the paralysis in the House of Representatives,

where the Republican majority had been considering placing one of the lie's loudest congressional proponents, Rep. Jim Jordan, in charge. "It is our view that Russia is capitalizing on what it sees as a relatively inexpensive success in the United States in 2020 to take this global," a senior intelligence official said on a call with reporters on Friday.

Officials on the call spoke on condition that their names not be disclosed so they could discuss U.S. intelligence.

The warning comes before next year's presidential elections in the U.S., where Trump is the heavy favorite to win his party's nomination, and elections in other democracies, including for the European



A booth is ready for a voter, Feb. 24, 2020, at City Hall in Cambridge, Mass., on the first morning of early voting in the state.

Associated Press

Union parliament in June of 2024. IDuring a European country's 2020 election, the cable states, Russia's intelligence agency "attempted

through proxies to deploy agitators to intimidate campaign workers, organize protests on Election Day, and sabotage overseas voting." □

Violent threats disrupt Muslim groups trying to raise money for Palestinians

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — A national Muslim civil rights group said Thursday it is moving its annual banquet out of a Virginia hotel that received bomb and death threats possibly linked to the group's concern for Palestinians caught in the Israel-Hamas war.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, canceled plans to hold its 29th annual banquet on Saturday at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

"In recent days, according to the Marriott, anonymous callers have threatened to plant bombs in the hotel's parking garage, kill specific hotel staff in their homes, and storm the hotel in a repeat of the Jan. 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol if the events moved forward," CAIR said in a statement.

The group had used the hotel for a decade, the statement said. But it will now move the banquet to an undisclosed location with heightened security.

Arlington police said in an email that the department was investigating a Thursday morning report from



Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) national executive director Nihad Awad speaks during a news conference, Jan. 30, 2017, in Washington.

Associated Press

the hotel that it received anonymous phone calls, "some referencing threats to bomb," regarding the CAIR event. Emails seeking comment from the FBI, which CAIR said also is investigating, and the Marriott hotel chain were not immediately answered late Thursday night.

A separate banquet planned for Oct. 28 in Maryland is being canceled and

will be merged with Saturday's event, CAIR said. Another event by a pro-Palestinian group was canceled in Houston, that one by the Hilton hotel leaders.

The threats to the Marriott in Virginia came after CAIR updated banquet programming to focus on human rights issues for Palestinians. The group has started an online campaign urging members of

Congress to promote a ceasefire in Gaza.

"We strongly condemn the extreme and disgusting threats against our organization, the Marriott hotel and its staff," CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad, who is Palestinian American, said in a statement. "We will not allow the threats of anti-Palestinian racists and anti-Muslim bigots who seek to dehuman-

ize the Palestinian people and silence American Muslims to stop us from pursuing justice for all."

Hamas militants from the blockaded Gaza Strip stormed into nearby Israeli towns on Oct. 7, which coincided with a major Jewish holiday. The attack killed hundreds of civilians. Since then, Israel has launched airstrikes on Gaza, destroying entire neighborhoods and killing hundreds of Palestinian civilians.

In Houston, the Hilton Houston Post Oak by the Galleria, citing unspecified safety concerns, canceled a conference scheduled for Oct. 27-29 by the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights. The USCPR said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter, that by the hotel was "capitulating to external pressure from hate groups," and executive director Ahmad Abuznaid called the cancellation "clearly an act of ethnic, racial and religious discrimination."

The Hilton said in a statement Friday that it does not endorse the positions of other groups and organizations and is concerned about the safety of its staff and guests. □

Affordable Care Act provisions codified under Michigan law by Gov. Whitmer

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI

Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Federal law that prohibits insurers from denying health-care based on preexisting conditions, or kicking dependents off their parent's coverage until age 26, is now codified separately into Michigan law.

Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed legislation Thursday that attempts to duplicate the Affordable Care Act, known as "Obamacare," into state law. The second-term governor said earlier this year that the proactive move was necessary to ensure Michigan residents "aren't

at risk of losing coverage," due to future Supreme Court rulings. Under the package, insurers



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer speaks at the SelectUSA Investment Summit, May 4, 2023, in Oxon Hill, Md.

Associated Press

ers must provide no-cost essential services, including preventive, mental health and emergency services. They can't deny or limit coverage based on gender identity or sexual orientation, or cap coverage in a given year or across a person's lifetime.

While "Obamacare" already includes those regulations, it has faced numerous legal challenges in its 13-year history, including several that have made it to the U.S. Supreme Court. Earlier this year, a federal judge struck down the ACA preventive care provision. A court agreement froze the judge's ruling as ap-

peals are pursued, meaning most insurers must still cover things like cancer screenings, diabetes and mental health. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that 150 million people in private health plans have benefited from the no-cost preventive services.

Whitmer called on the Democratic-controlled state Legislature to pass the protections during a "What's Next Address," in August. The legislation passed the Michigan House in June, with several Republicans joining Democrats, before it was approved by the state Senate along party lines. □

Slovenia to introduce border checks with Hungary and Croatia after Italy did the same with Slovenia

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (AP)

— Slovenia said Thursday it will introduce border checks with neighboring Hungary and Croatia following Italy's decision to do the same with Slovenia because of security concerns due to violence in the Middle East.

The government said border controls will be introduced on Saturday and last for at least 10 days. Italy on Wednesday said it will suspend an open-border agreement with Slovenia, also on Saturday and for 10 days.

The decisions reflect increasing security concerns in Europe because of the war between Israel and Hamas. European Union interior ministers on Thursday debated how to manage the impact of the war on the 27-nation bloc after a firebomb assault on a Berlin synagogue and killings in Belgium and France by suspected Islamic extremists. EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said in Luxembourg that the commission is looking into the issue of internal border checks, which she described as one of the chal-



Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni arrives at the Europe Summit in Granada, Spain, Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023.

Associated Press

lenges of the Schengen area. "Even if it is justified by severe things, internal security or illegal border crossing, internal border controls also hamper free movement," said Johansson. "We need to avoid it." The shooter in the Belgian attack, a Tunisian national, had been denied residency in four European countries and was issued a deportation order from Belgium

in 2021, but disappeared from sight. Only after he killed two Swedish men on Tuesday did officials manage to track him down. He was shot dead by police as they tried to arrest him. Slovenia's government cited heightened its level of security alert due to surging organized crime in the region and the escalation of tensions in the Middle East, the STA news agency

reported.

Members of various terrorist and extremist groups are withdrawing from conflict zones "to avoid the consequences of their actions or even with the intention of jeopardizing our security and stability," Slovenia's government said, according to the STA report.

Slovenia's Interior Minister Boštjan Poklukar presented the details at the EU meet-

ing in Luxembourg. He said authorities will set up special checkpoints for EU citizens and local residents living in the border area.

Slovenia, Italy, Croatia and Hungary are all among the 27 countries that belong to the Schengen area, the world's largest free travel zone. The Schengen nations can temporarily reintroduce border controls "in the event of a serious threat to public policy or internal security."

Péter Szijjártó, the foreign minister of Hungary's staunchly anti-immigration government, attributed Slovenia's decision to EU immigration policies that he said are endangering both the physical security and economic prosperity of European countries.

"Europe's economy is suffering as border controls within the Schengen area hinder and slow down trade and the cross-border operations of businesses," Szijjártó wrote on Facebook. "If Brussels does not change its migration policy, we could find ourselves where we do not want to be: in an era of Europe torn apart by old borders." □

Dutch king and queen are confronted by angry protesters on visit to a slavery museum in South Africa

By GERALD IMRAY

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

(AP) — Angry protesters in Cape Town confronted the king and queen of the Netherlands on Friday as they visited a museum that traces part of their country's 150-year involvement in slavery in South Africa.

King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima were leaving the Slave Lodge building in central Cape Town when a small group of protesters representing South Africa's First Nations groups the earliest inhabitants of the region around Cape Town surrounded the royal couple and shouted slogans about Dutch coloniz-

ers stealing land from their ancestors.

The king and queen were put into a car by security



Khoisan protesters surround King Willem Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands at the Iziko Slave Lodge museum in Cape Town during their state visit to South Africa Friday, Oct. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

personnel and quickly driven away as some of the protesters, who were wearing traditional animal-skin dress, jostled with police.

The Dutch colonized the southwestern part of South Africa in 1652 through the Dutch East India trading company. They controlled the Dutch Cape Colony for more than 150 years before British occupation. Modern-day South Africa still reflects that complicated Dutch history, most notably in the Afrikaans language, which is derived from Dutch and is widely spoken as an official language of the country, including by First Nations descendants.

King Willem-Alexander and

Queen Maxima made no speeches during their visit to the Slave Lodge but spent time walking through rooms where slaves were kept under Dutch colonial rule. The Slave Lodge was built in 1679, making it one of the oldest buildings in Cape Town. It was used to keep slaves men, women and children until 1811. Slavery in South Africa was abolished by the English colonizers in 1834.

Garth Erasmus, a First Nations representative who accompanied the king and queen on their walk through the Slave Lodge, said their visit should serve to "exorcise some ghosts." □

China and Russia plan to work together for a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians

BEIJING (AP) — China and Russia share the same position on the Palestinian issue and plan to try to work together to cool the situation and help establish a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians, a top Chinese envoy said Friday. Zhai Jun, China's special envoy to the Middle East, spoke after a meeting Thursday in Qatar with Mikhail Bogdanov, the Russian president's special representative for the Middle East and Africa.

"The fundamental reason for the current situation of the Palestine-Israel conflict is that the Palestinian people's lawful national rights have not been guaranteed," Zhai said, according to a statement released on Friday by the Chinese foreign ministry.

"China and Russia have the same position on the Palestine question, and China is ready to maintain communication and coordination with Russia to promote de-escalation of the situation," Zhai said.

The two countries want to "play a positive role in resuming talks for peace between Palestine and Israel,



In this photo provided by the Chinese Embassy in Qatar via Xinhua News Agency, Zhai Jun, left, special envoy of the Chinese government on the Middle East issue, meets with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Presidential Representative for the Middle East and Africa Mikhail Bogdanov in Doha, Qatar, Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023

Associated Press

truly implementing the two-state solution, and promoting a comprehensive, just and enduring solution to the Palestinian question at an early date," Zhai said.

China sent Zhai to the Middle East to push for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas in the latest

sign of its ambition to play a larger role in the region.

The two sides confirmed their "unwavering focus on closely coordinating efforts for the political settlement of this and other crises in the Middle East and North Africa region," Russia's Foreign Ministry said, accord-

ing to the country's Tass state news agency.

China, which sees the U.S. as too pro-Israel, has said it opposes attacks on civilians, but hasn't condemned the initial Hamas attack that started the latest war. Instead, it has called for an immediate cease-fire to protect civilians as Israel bombards Gaza before a possible ground invasion.

"We believe that when dealing with hot spot issues in the international community, major powers should be objective and impartial," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Friday.

In his meeting with Bogdanov, Zhai said Beijing was saddened by "a great number of civilian casualties caused by the Palestine-Israel conflict and the sharp deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Palestine."

Beijing describes Hamas as a "resistance movement," not as a terrorist group as Israel and other countries do.

Analysts say that China wants to position itself as a mediator and exert its

influence in the region as the U.S. shifts its global attention elsewhere. But the latest Gaza war has drawn the U.S. back in, with President Joe Biden visiting Israel this week. Zhai also met with Qatar's minister of state for foreign affairs, Mohammed Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi, the Chinese foreign ministry said. Mao, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said that Zhai would travel to other Middle Eastern countries, but she didn't give any further details.

Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly told Chinese leader Xi Jinping this week that "Egypt and other Arab countries highly appreciate China's consistent and just position on the Palestinian question and expect China to play a bigger role in solving the current crisis," according to a Chinese statement on their meeting.

Xi told Madbouly, who was in Beijing to attend a forum on China's Belt and Road infrastructure-building initiative, that the top priority is to stop the fighting and prevent it from causing a severe humanitarian crisis. □

A main suspect in the killing of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse has been arrested after 2 years

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A former justice official considered one of the main suspects in the killing of Haitian President Jovenel

Moïse in 2021 was arrested Thursday in Haiti's capital after being on the run for more than two years, police said.

Joseph Badio once worked for Haiti's Ministry of Justice and at the government's anti-corruption unit until he was fired for alleged ethics violations weeks before the assassination.

Badio was arrested in the neighborhood of Petion Vile in Port-au-Prince, National Police spokesman Garry Desrosiers said.

Moïse was shot 12 times at his private home in July 7, 2021, sending Haiti into a political crisis.

Several people had been arrested after Moïse assassination, including 11 men now in U.S. custody. Prosecutors in the U.S. have alleged that there was a broad plot among con-

spirators in both Haiti and Florida to hire mercenaries to remove Moïse and benefit from contracts from a successor administration.

Last week, former Haitian senator John Joel Joseph one of the 11 men in custody in the U.S. pleaded guilty to charges related to the assassination. A federal judge set his sentencing for Dec. 19.

The former senator was extradited from Jamaica to the U.S. in June accused of conspiring to commit murder or kidnapping outside the United States and providing material support resulting in death.

Two other people also have pleaded guilty. Hai-

tian-Chilean businessman Rodolphe Jaar was sentenced in June to life in prison. The sentencing for former Colombian soldier German Alejandro Rivera Garcia is set for Oct. 27.

Among the people arrested after the killing are 18 former Colombian soldiers who are in custody in Haiti. Since the assassination, the Caribbean country has also experienced a surge of gang violence that led the prime minister to request the deployment of an armed force. The U.N. Security Council finally voted on early October to send a multinational force led by Kenya to help fight the gangs. □



Jovenel Moïse talks to journalists during an interview in his office in Petion-Ville, Haiti, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016.

Associated Press

Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Duffi) Kock



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How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building. Ponson's General Store now had an electrical department, a housewares department, a paint department and a hardware department.

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we

strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from **Joyce and Jason Paisan from Los Angeles, CA.**

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is a magical place where we got engaged. It will always hold a special place in our heart."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Aruba to me



Photo by Steve Francees

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Skipp and Winnie, who are back for their third vacation in Aruba this year!**

They wrote to us to tell us how this power couple have been coming to Aruba for the last 40 years and over the years did an amazing promotion for Aruba back home. Celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this year in Aruba last July. Return tickets are ready for next year February and Winnie must have a surgery as soon back home so wishing Winnie a

Before Aruba they went to almost every island in the Caribbean but as soon they step here in Aruba they said, this is it, it's Aruba or nothing. Skipp walks about 15 hours a day without a shirt and Winnie with a coverup when necessary and been a great example of a married couple with over 65 years of experience. They still date about 3 times a week to maintain a hot married life and vacation like Kings and Queens here in Aruba. We are blessed to be close to such wonderful people that loves our island and choose to Aruba for their sole vacation destination.

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

“California Dunes” Episode LXXI– (71)

NOORD — Aruba has a few areas that have some beautiful dunes. Most of these areas are protected by law which prohibits motor vehicles to ride on them, like those at California, behind the Lighthouse. We should thank our parrot fishes for their contribution, because they bite on the coral for food and spit out the crusher calcium sand, which on its turn eventually will be picked up by the wind and accumulates all behind the beaches forming these clear white dunes.

The word "dune" came into English from French around 1790, which in turn came from the word *dune* and today "duinen" in Dutch. A dune is a landform, a large mass of wind-blown sand. Dunes are common in deserted environments and near beaches.

Some coastal areas have one or more sets of dunes running parallel to the shoreline directly inland from the beach. The dunes are important in protecting the land against potential ravages by storm waves from the sea. Although the most widely distributed dunes are those associated with coastal regions, the largest complexes of dunes are found inland in dry regions and associated with ancient lake or sea beds.



Dunes are made of sand-sized particles, and may consist of quartz, calcium carbonate, snow, gypsum, or other materials. The up-wind/upstream/up current

side of the dune is called the stoss side; the down flow side is called the lee side. Sand is pushed (creep) or bounces (saltation) up the stoss side, and slides down

the lee side. A side of a dune that the sand has slid down is called a slip face.

As a dune forms, plant succession occurs. The condi-

tions on an embryo dune are harsh, with salt spray from the sea carried on strong winds. The dune is well drained and often dry, and composed of calcium carbonate from seashells. Rotting seaweed, brought in by storm waves adds nutrients to allow pioneer species to colonize the dune. In Aruba some of these pioneer species is the "tabaco di piscado" *Sesuvium portulacastrum* and "corobano" "*Tournefortia gnaphalodes*" in our native language Papiamentu and also known with the name "sea lavender". These plants are well adapted to the harsh conditions of the dunes.

The dunes have a flora specially adapted to the aridity of the soil, the mobility of the loose sandy substrate, the low nutrients and the salinity. Few species survive in these extreme conditions, but these habitats should not be underestimated for this reason.

As we move away from the sea, the intensity of the wind, the saline spray and the mobility of the substrate are reduced. This makes the environmental conditions less extreme, which is used by a greater number of species.

The plant communities in the dunes are considered halophytes, that is, with vegetation that lives in soils with a high content of soluble salts. ... The predominant fauna of the coastal dunes are insects such as bees, wasps and ants, beetles, flies, spiders, sea birds and also lizards.

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The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499.



Alonso de Ojeda



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was liv-

ing on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surren-

dered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the com-

mander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Duff" Kock.



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

CROSSWORD

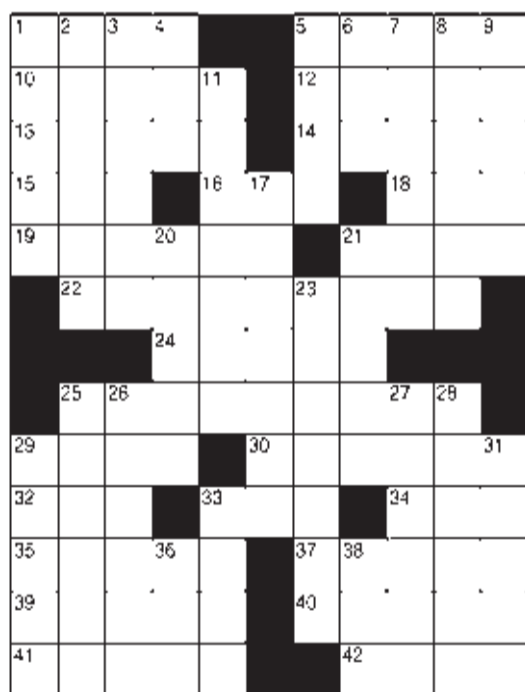
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 Mystery
 - 1 Castor or writer
Pollux Peters
 - 5 Olympian 39 Fuming
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 - 10 Keyed up girl, often
 - 12 Laughable 41 VCR
 - 13 Skip a inserts
ceremony 42 Seine
 - 14 Japanese assassins
 - 15 Relay **DOWN**
 - 16 That sight
 - 18 Clinic 11 Hero, often
 - 19 Wall art 17 Charlotte
 - 21 Debt team
 - 22 Starfish's cousin
 - 24 Colum- bus's home
 - 25 Come around, say
 - 29 Coop group
 - 30 Small quake
 - 32 Leaf lifter
 - 33 Cart puller
 - 34 Part of college addresses
 - 35 Water softener

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Yesterday's answer

- 7 Kingsley 25 Lady of
role Spain
- 8 Legally 26 Catch
- 9 Gasp, say 27 Brunch
- 28 "Forget it!"
- 29 Custom
- 31 Tricks
- 33 Symmetry
- 36 Noshed
- 38 Golf



10-21

AXYDI,BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

DMNZN TI OPD NOPRHM DTXN

DP AP EVV DMN OPDMTOH

CN CEOD DP AP. — JTVV

CEDDNZIPO

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH. HORATIO. THAN ARE DREAMT OF IN YOUR PHILOSOPHY. — SHAKESPEARE. "HAMLET"

Middle East crisis could disrupt oil supplies, raise prices



Pumpjacks dip their heads to extract oil in a basin south of Duchesne, Utah on July 13, 2023. U.S. oil production is at an all-time high.

Associated Press

By MATTHEW DALY, DAVID McHUGH and STAN CHOE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fifty years after the 1973 Arab oil embargo, the current crisis in the Middle East has the potential to disrupt global oil supplies and push prices higher. But don't expect a repeat of the catastrophic price hikes and long lines at the gasoline pump, experts say.

The Israel-Hamas war is "definitely not good news" for oil markets already stretched by cutbacks in oil production from Saudi Arabia and Russia and expected stronger demand from China, the head of the International Energy Agency said.

Markets will remain volatile, and the conflict could push oil prices higher, "which is definitely bad news for inflation," Fatih Birol, executive director of the Paris-based IEA, told The Associated Press. Developing countries that import oil and other fuels would be the most affected by higher prices, he said.

International benchmark Brent crude traded above \$91 a barrel on Thursday,

up from \$85 per barrel on Oct. 6, the day before Hamas attacked Israel, killing hundreds of civilians. Israel immediately launched airstrikes on Gaza, destroying entire neighborhoods and killing hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the days that have followed.

Fluctuations since the attack pushed oil prices as high as \$96.

The price of oil depends on how much of it is getting used and how much is available. The latter is under threat because of the Hamas-Israel war, even though the Gaza Strip is not home to major crude production.

One worry is that the fighting could lead to complications with Iran, home of some of the world's largest oil reserves. Its crude production has been constrained by international sanctions, but oil is still flowing to China and other countries.

"In order to get a sustained move (in prices), we really would need to see a supply disruption," said Andrew Lipow, president at Lipow Oil Associates, a Houston-based consultant.

Any damage to Iranian oil infrastructure from a military strike by Israel could send prices jumping globally. Even without that, a shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz that lies south of Iran could also shake the oil market because so much of the world's supplies goes through the waterway.

Until something like that happens, "the oil market is going to be like everyone else, monitoring the events in the Middle East," Lipow said.

One reason 1970s-style gas lines are unlikely: U.S. oil production is at an all-time high.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration, an arm of the Energy Department, reported that American oil production in the first week of October hit 13.2 million barrels per day, passing the previous record set in 2020 by 100,000 barrels. Weekly domestic oil production has doubled from the first week in October 2012 to now.

"The energy crisis of 1973 taught us many things, but in my mind, the most critical is that American energy strength is a tremendous source of security, prosperity and freedom around the world," said Mike Sommers, president and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute, the U.S. oil industry's top lobbying group.

In a speech Wednesday marking the 50th anniversary of the 1973 oil embargo, Sommers said current U.S. production contrasts sharply with "America's weakened position during the Arab oil embargo." He urged U.S. policymakers to heed what he called the lessons of 1973.

"We cannot squander our strategic advantage and retreat on energy leadership," said Sommers, who has repeatedly criticized President Joe Biden's policies restricting restricting new oil leases as part of Biden's efforts to slow global climate change. □

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Amazon will start testing drones that will drop prescriptions on your doorstep, literally

By **TOM MURPHY** and **HALE-LUYA HADERO**
Associated Press

Amazon will soon make prescription drugs fall from the sky when the e-commerce giant becomes the latest company to test drone deliveries for medications.

The company said Wednesday that customers in College Station, Texas, can now get prescriptions delivered by a drone within an hour of placing their order.

The drone, programed to fly from a delivery center with a secure pharmacy, will travel to the customer's address, descend to a height of about four meters — or 13 feet — and drop a padded package.

Amazon says customers will be able to choose from more than 500 medications, a list that includes common treatments for conditions like the flu or pneumonia, but not controlled substances.

The company's Prime Air division began testing drone deliveries of common household items last December in College Station and Lockeford, California. Amazon spokesperson Jessica Bardoulas said the company has made thousands of deliveries since launching the service, and is expanding it to include prescriptions based in part on customer requests.

Later on Wednesday, Amazon announced it will also launch drone delivery at a third U.S. location and cities in Italy and the United Kingdom by the end of next year. The company said it will disclose the exact locations in the coming months.

Amazon Prime already delivers some medications from the company's pharmacy inside of two days. But pharmacy Vice President John Love said that doesn't help someone with an acute illness like the flu. "What we're trying to do is figure out how can we bend the curve on speed,"



This photo provided by Amazon shows a drone delivering prescription drugs in College Station, Texas.

he said.

Amazon Pharmacy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vin Gupta says the U.S. health care system generally struggles with diagnosing and treating patients quickly for acute illnesses, something that was apparent throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Narrowing the window between diagnosis and treating makes many treatments more effective, he said.

Amazon is not the first company to explore prescription deliveries by drone. The drugstore chain CVS Health worked with UPS to test deliveries in 2019 in North Carolina but that

program has ended, a CVS spokesman said.

Intermountain Health started providing drone deliveries of prescriptions in 2021 in the Salt Lake City area and has been expanding the program, according to Daniel Duersch, supply chain director for the health care system. Intermountain is partnering with the logistics company Zipline to use drones that drop packages by parachute.

Companies seeking to use drones for commercial purposes have faced hurdles from regulators who want to make sure things are operating safely. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos had

predicted a decade ago that drones would be making deliveries by 2018. Even now, the e-commerce giant is only using the technology in a small number of markets. □

Associated Press



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Haudenosaunee deserves a lacrosse team of its own at the 2028 Olympics

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Columnist

They call it the "medicine game," which is a bit of a misnomer because lacrosse is more than just a game to the Haudenosaunee people.

Much more.

It's the spirit of their ancestors. It's a ceremonial tradition that has been passed down through the generations. It's the salve that soothes the souls of Native Americans who have endured so much heartache and suffering.

"Our gift to the world," says Rex Lyons, a former Haudenosaunee player and now the program's biggest cheerleader.

Simply put, they can't hold lacrosse at the Olympics the biggest stage in all of sports without allowing those who created the game and still treat it with a mystical reverence to have a team of their own.

Yet that's the position the International Olympic Committee is taking at the moment, actually having the gall to say Haudenosaunee athletes must compete for either the American or Canadian teams at the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Games.

In other words, assimilate. An ugly word, indeed, given the centuries-long degradation of Native



Lois Garlow of the Haudenosaunee Nationals lacrosse team heads toward the sideline during a match against Canada at the World Games in Birmingham, Ala., July 24, 2022.

Americans and persistent attempts to stamp out their customs and way of life since the settlers arrived at these shores.

"Throughout the history of colonialism, it felt like the Haudenosaunee people and all indigenous people were just fighting every day to still be alive," said Kason Tarbell, a member of the Haudenosaunee men's national lacrosse team. "Society keeps trying to put us back down and erase us from the history books. But

with our flag, we're showing every other country that we're still here, we're still fighting."

That purple flag, emblazoned with four connected squares and a white pine tree, is the revered symbol of Haudenosaunee, a confederation of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora nations.

Their territory encompasses upstate New York and adjoining swaths of Canada, but all attempts to assert

internationally recognized sovereignty have been swatted down.

Nevertheless, Haudenosaunee also known as Iroquois, though many now take a dim view of that label has long been viewed as an independent nation in the world of lacrosse.

The men have competed at the world championships since 1990, claiming the bronze medal in each of the last three editions, including this past summer. The Haudenosaunee also

have competed at the last four women's world championships, finishing eighth at the most recent tournament in 2022.

Even more notable, the Haudenosaunee men and women were allowed to compete last year at the World Games in Birmingham, Alabama, an Olympic-style competition for sports that don't have a permanent place on the Olympic program.

"It's only right for Haudenosaunee to be recognized as our own sovereign nation," said Jalyn Jimerson, a member of the women's team that competed in Birmingham. "I think we should be in the Olympics under our own sovereign flag. Not under the USA. Not under Canada. Considering we did create the game and shared it with everyone else, it's only right."

Apparently, that message hasn't gotten through to the IOC, at least not yet.

"They're just keeping their cards close to their chest," he told the AP in a telephone interview.

"I don't think there's any firm position at this point in time."

Lacrosse is among five sports that will be added for the Los Angeles Games, joining cricket, squash, baseball-softball and flag football. □



Golden State Warriors forward Andre Iguodala handles the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Jan. 16, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Andre Iguodala retires after 19-year NBA career

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Andre Iguodala, a four-time champion with the Golden State Warriors during a 19-year NBA career, is retiring.

"It's just the right time," the 39-year-old Iguodala told Andscape on Friday in a telephone interview. "Time started to get limited for me and I didn't want to put anything in the back seat. I didn't want to have to try to delegate time anymore. Especially with on the court, off the court with family. A lot."

He said family has a lot of do with his decision.

"You want to play at a high level. But then family is a lot. My son is 16 and then two girls. So, (I'm) looking forward to seeing them grow up in those important years," he said.

Iguodala, the No. 9 overall pick in the 2004 NBA draft out of Arizona, played in 1,231 games. He spent eight seasons with the Philadelphia 76ers, one in Denver, six with Golden State, two in Miami and the last two back with the Warriors. He was part of NBA champions in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2022 and the MVP of the Finals in 2015.

Over his career, he averaged 11.3 points including a high of 19.9 with the 76ers in 2007-08 4.9 rebounds and 4.2 assists. He made his only All-Star appearance in 2012 with the 76ers. □

MLB stars in the 2028 Olympics would be cool. It would also require logistical gymnastics

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Baseball Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Bryce Harper believes that letting big leaguers play in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics would be cool.

And you know what? He's absolutely right.

"I mean, I think it would be really cool. I think it would be a lot of fun," Harper said. "I don't know if they'll ever go for it, but I would love to put USA on my chest and represent it at the highest level."

The problem and really that should be problem(s) is it would require some major logistical gymnastics for Major League Baseball and it's unclear if the sport is willing to have a weeks-long disruption in the middle of its regular season to make it happen. MLB didn't let players on active big league rosters participate in 2000, 2004 and 2008, one of many reasons the sport was cut for 2012 and 2016.

It's been a yo-yo ride for baseball ever since: It was part of the delayed 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Japan's Nippon Professional Baseball even interrupted its season so its top players could participate. It won't be in Paris next summer.

But earlier this week, baseball found out it was back in the Olympics fold. Five sports



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper reacts after hitting a home run during the fifth inning of Game 3 of a baseball NL Division Series against the Atlanta Braves Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

were added to the 2028 Los Angeles Games by the International Olympic Committee with cricket, flag football, baseball-softball, lacrosse and squash making the cut. The slate of sports cleared a final hurdle from the Olympic body's full membership at a meeting in Mumbai, India, after being proposed by Los Angeles officials one week ago and recommended by the IOC executive board last week. Harper was pumped. "I will be old at that point, so I

don't know if they're going to want me to be on the team, but it's always a dream," Harper said. "I mean, I think it's everybody's dream to be in the Olympics."

International competition has always been a siren song for baseball, which is one of the reasons the World Baseball Classic was created in 2006. It hasn't always gone exactly according to plan, but the WBC has had its genuinely awesome moments. The most recent version featured

a memorable U.S.-Mexico game that drew more than 47,000 fans at Chase Field in Phoenix.

There was also a dream matchup in this year's final: Japan's Shohei Ohtani faced United States star Mike Trout in the ninth inning with two outs in a one-run game. Ohtani got the best of his Angels teammate, striking out Trout to secure a 3-2 win for Japan.

Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Merrill Kelly, who

started the final for the U.S., had rave reviews about the tournament. In fact, it's hard to find an MLB player who didn't enjoy the experience. "It was incredible," Kelly said. "From start to finish, just being in that environment, being around the guys I was around ... it was definitely special." One of the reasons baseball has always been a tough sell for the Olympics is its still a fairly regional game. It's big in the U.S. and other places like the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela. It's also got a solid foothold in Japan and South Korea.

But it's not particularly popular in large swaths of the world, including Europe, Africa and most of South America. Even in the WBC, the tournament struggles to field more than 10 or 12 competitive teams.

Then there's MLB's 162-game regular season schedule, which doesn't allow for a ton of interruptions. The Los Angeles games in 2028 are scheduled to take place the final two weeks in July, which would cut a huge swath into MLB's summer-long experience. That's usually prime money-making time for teams, which draw large crowds since families are on vacation and schools are on summer break. □

Minjee Lee birdies 18th hole to take a 2-stroke lead into the 3rd round of LPGA South Korea event

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Minjee Lee overcame swirling winds to shoot a 3-under 69 on Friday and take a two-stroke lead after two rounds of the LPGA South Korea tournament.

Lee had a two-round total of 11-under 133. American Alison Lee bogeyed her final hole for a 72 and was tied for second with first-round leader Ashleigh Buhai (73).

Defending champion Lydia Ko was three strokes behind after a 69.

Starting the day two shots off the lead, Minjee Lee's

two-round total was her lowest since her win at the 2022 U.S. Women's Open.

"I think I just tried to take as much advantage as I could when the wind was behind us," said Lee. "And obviously the birdie on 18 was just like cherry on top. So it was nice to finish on a good note."

A win in South Korea would be special for the 27-year-old Lee, whose parents are both from the country.

"I have a really deep heritage here. So I always love coming back and playing," said the Australian.

"Being at the top of the leaderboard is always nice, and being in contention is always my goal. So hopefully I can have a great weekend."

Buhai shot a bogey-free 62 to take a one-stroke lead after Thursday's first round in soft conditions on the newly-renovated Seowon Valley Country Club course outside Seoul.

But those low scores only 10 players in the 78-player, no-cut field were over par changed on Friday and gusty winds and fast greens made scoring difficult. □



Minjee Lee of Australia watches her tee shot during the second round of the BMW Ladies Championship at the Seowon Hills Country Club in Paju, South Korea, Friday, Oct. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

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<p>WAS \$14.85</p> <p>\$10.85</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Stoba/Stewbeef Lean</p>	<p>WAS \$9.99</p> <p>\$8.28</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Chicken Spanish Stoba</p>	<p>WAS \$9.11</p> <p>\$7.02</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Peppers Rainbow</p>	<p>WAS \$6.26</p> <p>\$3.14</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Apple Honey Crisp</p>
<p>WAS \$4.85</p> <p>\$3.86</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Tomatoes Reg</p>	<p>WAS \$10.28</p> <p>\$8.85</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Pork Loinribs</p>	<p>WAS \$4.54</p> <p>\$3.42</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Peppers Green</p>	<p>WAS \$4.49</p> <p>\$2.77</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Tomato Grape 1 Pint</p>
<p>WAS \$2.77</p> <p>\$2.11</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Eru Kids Naturel 100gr</p>			
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